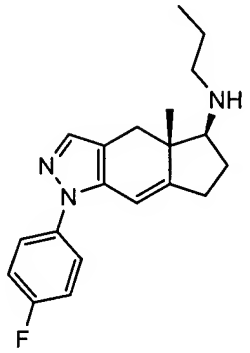
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 2, with the following replacement paragraph:

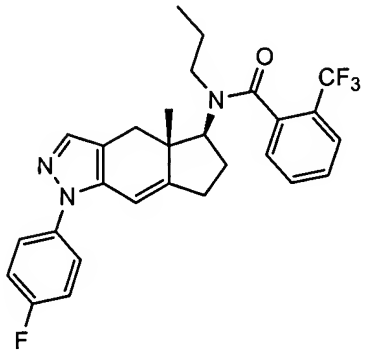
EXAMPLE 126



COMPOUND A (250 mg, 0.88 mmol) was diluted into CH_2Cl_2 (11 mL), and treated with *n*-propylamine hydrochloride (842 mg, 8.87 mmol), diisopropylethylamine (2.4 mL, 13.3 mmol), and followed by sodium triacetoxyborohydride (376 mg, 1.77 mmol). The reaction mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 15 h. The mixture was then partitioned between $NaHCO_{3(aq)}$ and CH_2Cl_2, and the organic phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude product was either used directly in subsequent reactions or purified by flash chromatography (~~Biotage~~ BIOTAGE® 40S, SiO_2, 1:9:90 NH_4OH-MeOH-$CHCl_3$) to provide the product which was characterized by ^1H NMR, HPLC and mass spectrometry (m/z: 326 (M^++1)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 57, line 13, with the following replacement paragraph:

EXAMPLE 127



EXAMPLE 126 (2 g, 6.15 mmol) was diluted into CH_2Cl_2 (31 mL) and treated with diisopropylethylamine (2.3 mL, 12.3 mmol), followed by 2-(trifluoromethyl)benzoyl chloride (1.4 mL, 9.23 mmol). The reaction mixture was maintained at 23 °C for 2 h. The mixture was then partitioned between $NaHCO_{3(aq)}$ and CH_2Cl_2, the organic phase dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated in vacuo and purified by flash chromatography (~~Biotage~~ BIOTAGE® 65M, SiO_2, 30% EtOAc-hexane) to provide the product which was characterized by ^1H NMR, HPLC and mass spectrometry (m/z: 498 (M^++1)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 72, line 6, with the following replacement paragraph:

GR Ligand Binding Assay

For the hGRI ligand binding assay, cytosols were prepared from recombinant baculovirus expressed receptors. Frozen cell pellets were dounce homogenized in ice cold KPO_4 buffer (10mM KPO_4, 20mM sodium molybdate, 1mM EDTA, 5mM DTT and complete protease inhibitor tablets from Boehringer Mannheim) with a "B" plunger. The homogenates were centrifuged at 35,000 x g for 1 h at 4°C in a JA-20 rotor. The IC_{50s} were determined by incubating the cytosols at a final concentration of 2.5nM [1,2,4,6,7-^3H] Dexamethasone in the

presence of increasing concentrations (10-11 to 10-6) of cold dexamethasone or the ligands at 4°C for 24 h. Bound and free were separated by a gel filtration assay, (Geissler et al,, personal communication). Half of the reaction was added to a gel filtration plate (MILLIPORE) containing ~~sephadex~~ SEPHADEX® G-25 beads that was previously equilibrated with KPO4 buffer containing 1mg/ml BSA and centrifuged at 1000 x g for 5 min.[[.]] The reaction plate was centrifuged at 1000 x g for 5 min. and the reactions were collected in a second 96-well plate and scintillation cocktail was added and counted in (Wallac) double coincidence beta counter. The IC_{50} values were calculated using a 4-parameter fit program. The compounds of this invention demonstrated a range of GR affinity in the above assay with IC_{50} values between 10 uM and 1 nM.